

6. Watershed dev. For Shifting Cultivation	1	100		100		100	1
TOTAL:	13	357.01	98.5	602	105	50:50 60:40 100	8 1 4
2000-2001							
1. Fishery	1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	50:50	1
2. Education	5	163.51	83.5	163.51	83.5	100 50:50	2 3
3. Medical and Health	3		114		114	50:50	3
4. Urban Development	1		200		200	60:40	1
5. Flood Control Prot. of different reaches from the erosion of rivers	1	303		303		100	1
5. Watershed dev. For shifting Cultivation	1	100		100		100	1
6. Industry Cent, investment Subsidy	1	240		240		100	1
TOTAL:	13	814.61	406	814.61	406	50:50 60:40 100	7 1 5

Downsizing of Planning Commission

2976. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the composition of the Planning Commission including the number of members, advisers, consultants etc., together with its full complement of supporting staff;

(b) the amount spent on pay and allowances including TA and DA of the members, officers and the staff during the last five years, year-wise;

(c) whether any efforts have been made to downsize the

[22 March, 2001]

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Commission on the lines of various Ministries and Departments of the Central Government and if so, with what results; and

(d) possible role and relevance of the Commission in the changing economic scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Planning Commission is headed by the Prime Minister and has one Deputy Chairman, six Members and a Secretary. The Minister of State for Planning is also an Ex-officio Member of the Commission. Besides, the Commission has, in its composition, the Union Ministers for Finance and External Affairs as the two Part time Minister Members. The Commission has 25 Adviser level officers.

They have been provided with both technical and secretarial supporting staff.

The position in respect of various posts/persons is as under:—

GROUP	Planning	Commission	Programme Evaluation Organisation			
	Sanctioned	Filled	Headquarters		Field Offices	
			Sanctioned	Filled	Sanctioned	Filled
A	307	236	12	05	37	22
	IV	10*				
B	276	259	5	5	35	30
	20*	14*				
C	398	319	10	09	67	43
	24*	20*				
D	317	305	8	8	30	21
	27'	25*				
TOTAL	1380	1188	35	27	169	116

Total Sanctioned Staff—1584

Total Filled Posts—1331

**These are the Co-terminus posts/persons who continue with the tenures of Deputy Chairman or Members.

(b) The expenditure on Pay and Allowances and TA/DA (Domestic) for all the officers and staff of the Planning Commission as well as PEO during the last five years has been as under:—

(Figures in lakh rupees)

YEAR	PLANNING Pay & Allowances 802-45	COMMISSION TA/DA (Domestic) 45.44	PROGR EVALU ORGANI Pay & Allowances 111.85	AMME ATION SATION TA/DA (Domestic) 6.20
1995-96				
1996-97	854.26	35.29	113.12	7.84
1997-98	1250.17	144.51	147.88	9.86
1998-99	1472.91	57.39	173.60	10.61
1999-2000	1519.32	74.75	183.17	12.00

(c) The Planning Commission has recently undertaken a Review of posts in the light of the guidelines of the Ministry of Finance and as an outcome of the Review, 157 posts at various levels have already been abolished in the Planning Commission during the year 2000-2001. Besides, a number of posts at various levels are not being operated by the Planning Commission.

(d) In the face of changing domestic economic policy regime and an equally fast paced integration of the economy with the emerging global order, investment planning is no more the only, or the more predominant, or even the most effective instrument of pursuing development. In fact, the role of State and hence of planning has to move from a direct intervention in economic activity in general and the production process in particular, to facilitating creation of an environment that encourages individual initiative and reaches out by providing opportunity to all. Planning has to, therefore, go beyond undertaking mere budgetary allocations, between the competing sectors and regions, for that alone would not be

enough, and move towards ensuring policy harmonisation over time and across space. This requires the Planning Commission to strengthen its role as a "Think Tank"—a repository of expert knowledge.

Planning Commission is currently engaged in an exercise to determine what would be the most effective role for the Commission in the altered domestic and global scenario. In this regard, a note prepared on the Role of the Planning Commission in the wake of changing economic scenario was discussed in the full Planning Commission Meeting held on 30th September, 2000 under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The proposal was broadly approved and is to be further discussed between the Deputy Chairman and the Union Finance Minister.

Disparities between rural and urban areas

2977. SHRI RS. GAVAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the disparities between the rural and urban areas in most of the States are widening;
- (b) if so, the details of various indicators to show this trend; and
- (c) the manner in which Government propose to narrow down these disparities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The State-wise estimates of the ratio of per capita urban to per capita rural consumption expenditure as obtained from the two latest large sample surveys of the household consumption expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation in its 50th and 55th Round, are given in the statement (*See below*).

- (c) The priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of